THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The two cases under reference are under trail in the Court.

(b) The High Court of Delhi has not set any time frame in the matter.

(c) and (d) Delhi Police have in connection with this case identified and seized property worth Rs. 5.62 crores, Besides, the persons accused in the case have deposited Rs. 54.55 lakhs with the High Court of Delhi. The matter is *sub-judice* and further course of action will be decided by the Hon'ble Court.

Huge Losses in Defence Stores

*419. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total store losses in Defence services during 1999-2000 amounted to Rs. 186 crore in comparison to Rs. 37.14 crore in 1998-99;

(b) if so, what are the causes that have contributed to such huge losses; and

(c) what corrective measures are being taken to avoid such huge store losses?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The major increase in losses has been in respect of miscellaneous stores, which has gone up from Rs. 23.53 crores in the year 1998-99 to Rs. 157.57 crores in 1999-2000. This is mainly on account of written off charges due to accident of aeroframe/aero-engine pertaining to the period 1995-98 which have been written off in 1999-2000.

Factors contributing to air accidents are constantly examined, reviewed and necessary measures are taken to reduce them. Some of these measures are: steps taken to improve the quality of training, constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers to overcome technical defects, reduction of incidents of bird hit accidents by sanitising populated areas around the airfields.